

STATE OF OHIO

WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM REVIEW

December 8, 2014

The following Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Review is submitted by the State of Ohio to the Compact Council pursuant to the requirements contained in Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (hereinafter “the Compact”) and to the Regional Body pursuant to the commitments made in Article 300 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (hereinafter “the Agreement”).

1. Lead Agency. The lead agency for Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program is the Division of Soil & Water Resources (DS&WR) within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The lead contact person is Michael Bailey, Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR (614-265-6610; Michael.Bailey@dnr.state.oh.us). Additional contact people include Rodney Tornes, Deputy Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR (phone: 614-265-6737; email: Rodney.Tornes@dnr.state.oh.us) and Michael Hallfrisch, Manager of the Water Inventory & Planning Program within the ODNR-DS&WR (phone: 614-265-6745; email: Mike.Hallfrisch@dnr.state.oh.us).

2. Status of Ohio Goals & Objectives. Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency goals are those contained in Section 4.2.1 of the Compact. Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency objectives have been developed and can be viewed online at [water conservation goals & objectives](#).

3. Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Overview. Ohio’s implementing laws, regulations and policies are contained in the Compact, codified in §1522.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and its state implementing provisions, codified in §§1522.02-21 of the ORC. Specifically, §1522.05 of the ORC requires the Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR to adopt voluntary watershed-wide goals, objectives, and standards for water conservation and efficiency consistent with Section 4.2 of the Compact. In addition, §1522.17 of the ORC requires an applicant for a water withdrawal & consumptive use permit to submit a facility water conservation plan that, if it reasonably incorporates environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures applicable to the facility, will be considered to be in compliance with Section 4.11.3 of the Compact. All other elements of Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program are voluntary, except those that are authorized by pre-existing statutes, regulations, or programs. The only such program that provides for mandatory use reductions is the Ohio Emergency Management Agency’s Drought Contingency Plan, and then only when the governor declares a Level Four Drought Emergency.

Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program consists of education on the value of water conservation & efficiency and promotion of voluntary conservation practices. Such efforts are undertaken individually by state agencies pursuant to general education authorities and programs, and without centralized coordination by the lead agency under the Compact.

4. Consistency with Regional Objectives

| Objective | Legislative or Program Citation |
|---|---|
| Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use | <p>A program to coordinate existing state & local government water conservation programs under the leadership of the ODNR-DSWR is underway; existing state & local programs are being inventoried</p> <p>Water management plans have been completed for the Lake Erie Basin watersheds, including water resource inventory & assessment, analysis of water use trends and formulation of water use forecasts, and identification of potential water shortage areas</p> |
| Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources | <p>A report has been prepared for the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by a study team from the Cleveland State University entitled "Water Resources Shaping Ohio's Future: Water Efficiency Manual for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Facilities". This report is available on the water conservation webpage on ODNR's Compact website</p> <p>Programs are being developed that encourage water conservation practices and provide incentives for water users who voluntarily implement strict conservation practices</p> |
| Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state and provincial water conservation & efficiency programs | <p>Water use information for registered withdrawals continues to be collected, analyzed, and reported for the various categories of water use</p> <p>A program is being developed to improve the measurement & evaluation of water conservation practices; identify & encourage programs to monitor, account for, and minimize water loss</p> |
| Develop science, technology, and research | <p>Opportunities for research & development related to water conservation & efficiency are being investigated, and research & monitoring needs related to the interaction of ground water & surface water are being identified</p> <p>Funding sources are being investigated to support research to develop state-of-the-art water conservation technologies and identify how recognized modeling programs can be used in water conservation planning</p> |
| Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users | <p>A water conservation & efficiency education program is being developed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate water conservation into the Ohio Project WET program by conducting training workshops for classroom teachers and non-formal educators (a water conservation training workshop is scheduled for the spring of 2015) Conduct conferences for water infrastructure owners & managers as well as forums & seminars focused on voluntary conservation programs (an online forum presenting input from water withdrawal facility managers is being developed) Work to incorporate water conservation into existing classroom curricula by sponsoring a contest for school children to create a conservation & efficiency program logo applicable to each water use category (schools have been contacted and potential sponsors are being sought) Develop a website & printed material conveniently accessible to the public containing information on water conservation & efficiency (a water conservation webpage has been placed online on ODNR's Compact website) |

5. Program Implementation Timeline & Status. Ohio's water conservation & efficiency program, which does not include any mandatory conservation requirements on water users (except those who have obtained water withdrawal and consumptive use permits), is currently being implemented as indicated, with further developments underway.